

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 231054

62

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.:LAB

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P:JJSISCO

S/S-O: L. MATTESON

----- 023999

O 271948Z SEP 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 231054

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: PERSHING MISSILES AND EGYPTIAN CRITICISM

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. WE ARE SENDING YOU BY SEPTTEL TEXT OF HENRY TANNER STORY FROM CAIRO IN TODAY'S (SATURDAY'S) NEW YORK TIMES WHICH ATTRIBUTES TO "LEADING EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS" CRITICISM THAT I MISLED EGYPTIANS BY NOT TELLING THEM ABOUT PERSHING MISSILES, SAYS THEY DISCOUNT SUBSEQUENT U.S. REASSURANCES, AND QUOTES FAHMY BY NAME IN CRITICAL COMMENTS DIRECTED AT ISRAELI ATTITUDES SINCE AGREEMENT SIGNED.

2. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DISCUSS THIS WITH FAHMY, MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS: I CAN UNDERSTAND EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITIES TO PUBLICITY THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO LEAKS ABOUT PERSHING MISSILE. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE SURFACE APPEARANCES RESULTING FROM THIS PUBLICITY MAY BE,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 231054

IT IS TOTALLY MISLEADING. THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO

THE PERSHING IS PRECISELY THE SAME AS IT WAS PRIOR TO THE
NEGOTIATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 4 AGREEMENT. IN THIS
CONNECTION, YOU SHOULD CALL TO FAHMY'S ATTENTION MY

FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON THE PERSHING IN A CBS
TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH DICK HOTTELET ON SEPTEMBER 22:
"I THINK THAT THIS HAS BEEN BLOWN OUT OF ANY PROPORTION.
THE PERSHING MISSILE WAS ON THE ISRAELI SHOPPING LIST
WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES LAST AUGUST. IT
HAS BEEN BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SINCE LAST AUGUST.
THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING NEW ABOUT IT. THE UNITED
STATES HAS NOT AGREED TO SUPPLY IT. IT HAS AGREED AGAIN,
AFTER THE REASSESSMENT, TO CONTINUE THE STUDY THAT WAS
ALREADY GOING ON. THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMITMENT. THE
PRESIDENT HAS SAID IT. I HAVE SAID IT. SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER HAS SAID IT. AND WE HAVE ENOUGH REAL PROBLEMS
NOT TO TORMENT OURSELVES WITH ARTIFICIAL ONES . . . THE
PURPOSE OF THE STUDY IS TO SORT OUT SOME OF THE QUESTIONS
THAT ARE NOW BEING ASKED -- WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY FOR
THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, WHAT THE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS
WOULD BE -- AND NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE OF ANY KIND."
IN THE SAME INTERVIEW, I POINTED OUT THAT MANY POLITICAL
THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN BEFORE THE 1980'S, WHICH IS THE
EARLIEST THE PERSHING COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ISRAEL EVEN
IF WE DECIDED TO PROVIDE IT, WHICH WE HAVE NOT DONE. I
SAID THAT ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR THE PERSHING AND OTHER
LONG LEAD-TIME ITEMS WHICH WE ARE STUDYING MUST BE SEEN
IN THE CONTEXT OF A SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT THAT HAS BEEN GOING
ON FOR SOME TIME AND NOT AS A DRAMATIC DECISION THAT
SUDDENLY ESCALATES THE LEVEL OF ARMAMENTS.

3. YOU SHOULD TELL FAHMY THAT I CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT
THAT EGYPTIANS NOT CONTRIBUTE TO FUELING THE ARGUMENTS OF
OUR CRITICS HERE. FACT IS THAT A NUMBER OF VOICES IN
CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE HAVE ON THEIR OWN SPOKEN OUT
AGAINST GIVING THE PERSHING TO ISRAEL, AND I AM CONCERNED
THAT EGYPTIAN CRITICISM COULD UNDERMINE THIS DOMESTIC
REACTION.

4. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO FAHMY THAT, TO PUT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 231054

MATTERS IN PERSPECTIVE, THE SITUATION HERE IS MOVING IN
THE DIRECTION I PREDICTED IT WOULD. THE MOOD OF OPINION
IS SHIFTING INCREASINGLY TOWARD RECOGNITION OF THE NEED
FOR AN OVERALL ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT -- SOMETHING THAT
COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT CONCLUSION OF THE RECENT
SINAI AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MISSILES, MILITARY SALES, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 09/27/75
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE231054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALATHERTON,JR.:LAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850011-1544, N750004-0668
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750910/aaaaahzb.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERSHING MISSILES AND EGYPTIAN CRITICISM
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IS, EG, US, NY TIMES, (TANNER, HENRY), (FAHMY, ISMAIL), (HOTTELET, DICK)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006